

Abstract

A method is proposed for transmitting virtual containers of SDH or SONET signals in which a group of AU-3s or AU-4s or AU-3-Nc's or AU-4-4c's is transmitted in a novel VC-Y-Xc transport module having an AU-PTR and an AU-POH for the group. The VC-Y-Xc transport module for SDH or SONET serves to form a group of virtual containers and has a PTR for the group, a POH for the group and a maximum of X-1 virtual container locations for transmitting tributary bits, where X is a natural number greater than 1 and Y is equal to 3 or 4 or a natural number greater than 1. For higher-order transmission channels, for example, VC-4s or VC-3s or also VC-4-Nc's or VC-3-3Nc's, a channel bundling is performed if said channels are transported jointly at least over a subsection. The network management has only to manage, to protect and to switch the one bundle instead of a multiplicity of individual channels.